

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend paragraph 0034 of the published application as follows:

As depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2, an endoscope assembly comprises a flexible elongate insertion member or shaft 10, a pair of catheters 12 and 14, a sheath 16, and optionally an end cap 18. Insertion shaft 10 ~~inseparably~~ includes a longitudinally extending illumination guide 20 and a longitudinally extending image guide 22. Image guide 22 may take the form of a fiber-optic bundle or, alternatively, an electrical cable. In the latter case, a charged coupled device or other camera (not shown) is disposed at the distal end 24 of the insertion shaft 10 for converting incoming electromagnetic waves into a digitized electrical signal encoding video images. In either case, a lens 26 is provided at the distal tip of image guide 22 for focusing the incoming electromagnetic waves.

Amend paragraph 0053 of the published application as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. 7-9, an endoscope insertion member or shaft 130 is formed along an outer surface 132 with a longitudinal channel 138 having a pair of edges 134 and 136 defining a longitudinal slot 140. An elongate closure member 142 made, for instance, of a thermoplastic resin material, is slidably engaged with insertion member 130 along edges 134 and 136 to cover or close slot 140 during at least a portion of an endoscopic investigation. Channel 138 has a substantially circular cross-section, while closure member 142 is substantially disposed only outside of that circular cross-section, the closure member being configured to not protrude into the channel and to substantially maintain and complete the circumference of the circular cross-section thereof.